L. Harkavy G-5 (1929-47) 1951 MI 1 Kuwait
Re-drawn 1954

787 If a cowrie fell on ground like this, it represented a girl.

If a cowrie fell on ground like this, it represented a boy.

OTHER INDICATIVE POSITIONS

(a) Denotes sickness in man or woman according as cowrie faces upwards or downwards.
(b) Denotes a pregnant woman (zabahir over date stone).
(c) Zabahir pointing towards a person denotes a letter for him or her.
(d) Zabahir imposed above a cowrie denotes a dinner.
(e) Reverse side pointing towards a person denotes happiness.

A cowrie falling on ground in a propped-up position against a half broken zabahir shell indicates a shaikh.

The fortune-teller throws three times or five times to tell a person's fortune, scattering her trinkets in a small area, as one would throw dice. She then examines the above articles, and sees how they lie. She then tells a little story such as, "Your small boy is far across the sea, he is now writing a letter to you. It will come by an aeroplane in six days' time. He is missing you greatly, but a kind man is caring for him", or more often a sweetheart and her doings are described in language such as, "The girl you love is pining for you, and is languishing because she cannot see you", etc.

A GAME CALLED AL HAWAILAH

824 Al Hawailah,* which is a favourite Arab game, is played by two players in the following way:

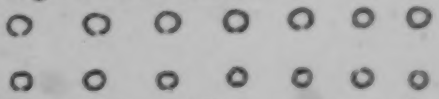
* Possibly it is the original form of backgammon. There is certainly a resemblance.

k Dickson G-5 (1929-47) 1951 MI 1 Kuwait
Backgammon KIJ4

Primitive Backgammon

Chap. XLI

Each player digs in the sand seven small holes in a line, opposite each other, placing in each five stones. 524



Each player in turn picks up all the stones out of any one hole on his side, and distributes them one by one anti-clockwise in the other holes, beginning at the first hole on the right of the one from which he has taken the stones. Should the last stone end in a hole which either contains one or three stones (not two), the player may "take" them, and place them on one side: also if the one immediately next to it on the right, into which a stone has been put, contains either one or three, it may also be taken.

The game is finished when all the fourteen holes are empty. The stones are then replaced, five in each hole, instead of being counted (ready for the next game).

The player whose stones exceed the number needed to fill the holes in his line wins.

Another variety of this game is called Umm al Judairah, in which the holes are placed in a circle with one in centre.

KHITAB SULAIMAN BIN DAÛD

On 12th December I happened to visit Sâlim al Muzaiyin's tents and those of the Al Khamit ('Awazim). They were all pitched in a hollow on the west side of the Dhahar ridge, some 15 miles from Kuwait. The day was fine and warm. 789

Outside Salim's tent and opposite the women's quarters I saw a large black ants' nest, with ants busy all over it. There were two main entrances for the ants to go in and out of the nest, some 4 feet apart.

Round the whole nest was drawn a wide circle by means of a shallow trench an inch deep, and inside the circle were placed two ropes in the form of a circle, which are used for binding the poles of the tent together when on the march. They are used for no other purpose.

The large circle had a diameter of about 12 feet, and the small rope circles were about 1 ft. 6 in. in diameter.